DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Saturday, January 17, 2026

KARACHI

Sunset	06:06pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	07:17am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	13°C
Maximum	27°C
Humidity	73%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan lose U-19 World Cup opener to England

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Tessori slams KP CM for 'causing loss of billions' during Karachi visit

Dawn Report

KARACHI: Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori on Friday criticised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi for "inciting acts of vandalism and road blockades" during his recent visit to Karachi, which he said led to "losses worth billions of rupees".

Speaking to reporters here, the governor said that the PTI had "turned the whole country upside down, but the agitation was confined to social media and had no value on the ground".

Referring to KP CM's Karachi visit, he said, "You must come here, we will welcome you again, but come with positive work to do."

He suggested that CM Afridi should meet with traders and industrialists and ask them to invest in his province instead of mobilising people to take to the streets.

"If you talk about establishing new industries, expanding inter-provincial trade, the future of people, giving health and educational opportunities, people will definitely welcome you," Mr Tessori said. "However, incendiary political narrative, incitement to vandalism, blockades, causing trouble to people — these things will not be welcomed."

The governor added that putting this city to a halt caused losses worth billions of rupees, because "Karachi is the financial and economic hub of Pakistan". "For God's sake, don't do this," he pleaded.

Speaking in favour of the armed forces and calling the CM out for criticising them, the governor said that politicians might disappoint the nation, but the army would never do that.

The governor said that Karachi city gave the PTI a president, Arif Alvi, who was a citizen of this city. "Tell me how many projects he gave to Karachi."

FIREFIGHTERS hose down flames at the Karachi International Container Terminal.—Shakil Adil / White Star

Karachi port fire destroys imported goods stored in 20 containers

• Officials say no casualties reported in fire that erupted at KICT • KPT acknowledges timely support from all agencies in ensuring safety of port infrastructure and operations

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Imported goods, mostly lithium batteries, stored in at least 20 containers were destroyed as a huge fire erupted at the Karachi International Container Terminal (KICT) at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) on Friday afternoon, officials and rescue services said.

However, no one was reported injured as workers had gone to perform Friday prayers.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the fire erupted in a container at KICT, West Wharf, within the limits of Docks police. The police immediately responded while rescue and fire teams also arrived and initiated firefighting efforts.

Talking to *Dawn*, Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said that their central command and control room received information about the eruption of fire at West Wharf, Gate-20, at around 1:45pm.

He added that initially, they were informed that one container had caught fire. By the time they reached the spot, another container had also caught fire, prompting them to call backup rescue teams. Since it was Friday prayer time, most of the workers had already left the place; otherwise, he apprehended that casualties might have occurred.

Mr Khan said the containers were carrying electrical, dry chemical and lithium batteries and he suspected that this might have triggered the fire "spontaneously", which then spread and engulfed other containers. All 20 containers were completely destroyed.

The Rescue spokesperson said they faced difficulties in controlling the fire as it did not require water to extinguish it. Instead, it required a specialised powder.

He said a total of 20 fire tenders from Rescue dept, KMC's Fire Brigade, KPT and the Pakistan Navy managed to control the fire at 4:50pm.

The KPT claimed in a statement that an "immediate and well-coordinated emergency response" was carried out, led by the KPT Fire Brigade Service. "Through swift action, effective coordination and professional handling by all responding teams, the fire was successfully brought under control, preventing its spread and ensuring the safety of port infrastructure and operations."

The KPT acknowledged and appreciated the timely support, professionalism and teamwork of all participating agencies in safeguarding the port.

Probable cause

Regarding the possible cause of the fire, DIG Raza said that during the initial probe it transpired that the fire erupted due to a short circuit inside a container.

Further information about the incident and financial losses is being obtained, said the South police chief.

However, the Rescue spokesperson said this was a new emerging challenge for firefighters in the metropolis, as batteries being used in electric vehicles can spontaneously trigger fires due to certain temperatures.

He recalled that last year, a luxury electric vehicle parked at a showroom in Defence Housing Authority had triggered a fire because of its battery, resulting in the death of two women and injuries to several others.

He said their teams were collaborating with rescue teams in Punjab and Islamabad as well to cope with this new challenge.

India arrests nine Pakistani fishermen, seizes their boat

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The Indian Coast Guards have arrested nine Pakistani fishermen and seized their boat, Al Madina.

This is the second such incident within a month as Indian forces had detained another 11 Pakistani fishermen earlier on December 12, too.

According to the available information shared with *Dawn* by the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF), the detained fishermen have been identified as Mohammed Idris, Mohammed Yousuf, Fareed Aslam, Mohammed Hussain, Ibrahim Sona Mian, Mohammed Shahid, Mohammed Younis, Mohammed Haroon and Arif Hassan.

The incident has created serious fear and anxiety within the fishing community which depends entirely on the sea for its livelihood.

PFF Chairman Mehran Ali Shah has strongly condemned the unjust action and said: "The continuous arrest and detention of poor fishermen under the pretext of disputed maritime boundaries is unacceptable and inhumane."

He demanded immediate and unconditional release of all the fishermen languishing in Indian jails.

The chairperson of the Fishermen Cooperative Society (FCS), Fatima Majeed, who also serves as a senior vice chairperson of PFF, told *Dawn* that they work on the documentation of fishermen languishing in Indian jails in liaison with government organisations here.

"It was great to receive 48 Pakistani fishermen released from Indian jails in September of last year. But in the last one month we have also seen 20 more of our innocent fishermen getting picked up by the Indian Coast Guards. We strongly condemn this action," she said.

"It is not just a loss of fishermen but also their fishing boat, which the fishermen construct themselves within their meagre means. Even after their release the boats are never returned to them," said Ms Majeed .

"And getting arrested means spending the best years of your life behind bars in difficult circumstances. Out here also their families suffer badly without them as many times the one arrested was the sole earning member of a family. The women and children in their family face hardship," she said.

"Therefore, arresting the fishermen like this is also a violation of human rights. They were only earning a livelihood. And they got arrested because there are no visible boundaries in the sea," she added.

Power Division, Nepra issued notices on plea against disconnection of electricity to entire area

KE policy to punish entire locality due to default of a few individuals is violation of Nepra Act, articles 4 and 25 of Constitution, SHC told

By Ishaq Tanoli

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court on Friday issued notices to the secretary of Power Division, National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) and K-Electric on a petition against disconnection of power supply to an entire neighbourhood in Karachi.

A two-judge constitutional bench, headed by Justice Yousuf Ali Sayeed, also put a federal law officer on notice for Jan 20 and directed the respondents to file comments by the next hearing.

Citing the power ministry, Nepra and KE as respondents, petitioner Usama Ahmed Usmani submitted that he, along with his family, lived at Data Nagar in Orangi Town and had regularly been paying his electricity bills.

He said the KE categorised him as a "star customer". However, he said the utility had on Jan 13 illegally disconnected the power supply of the entire area from a pole-mounted transformer (PMT) by declaring the area as "high loss zone".

He maintained that like him many other consumers were also paying their power bills on a regular basis, but the entire locality was punished by the tility.

The petitioner, who is also a SHC staffer, argued that the Consumer Service Manual 2021 approved by Nepra had only authorised the KE to disconnect the power supply of a defaulting customer or the one using illegal connection.

He contended that the KE policy to collectively punish the entire neighbourhood due to default of a few individuals was not only the violation of the Nepra Act and relevant rules but also sheer infringement of Articles 4 and 25 of the Constitution.

He maintained the right of electricity has been recognised as a fundamental right by the superior and higher judiciary while Section 21 of the Nepra Act 1997 bound the power utility to provide power to all the customers on a non-discriminatory basis and to follow performance standards laid down by the regulatory authority.

The petitioner pleaded to declare the impugned action of KE as illegal, unconstitutional and without jurisdiction and sought directives for respondents to immediately restore the electricity of the area.

Water tanker runs over, kills boy

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A water tanker ran over and killed a five-year-old boy in Baldia Town on Friday evening, according to police and rescue services officials.

They said that the incident took place near Rana Ground and the victim was identified as Hanan, 5.

The driver responsible for the fatal accident managed to escape from the spot, leaving behind the heavy vehicle that was impounded by the police.

The body was shifted to the Dr Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital Karachi for medico-legal formalities.

'Mohenjo-Daro had fortified gates where people paid taxes to enter'

American archaeologist reveals the ancient city was surrounded by fortification wall; efforts on to uncover its urban planning and infrastructure

By M.B Kalhoro

LARKANA: A team of experts, led by US archaeologist Dr Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, is conducting excavation work at the ancient Indus Valley site of Mohenjo-Daro at the "great wall" surrounding the historical city.

Director of State Bank Museum, Archives & Art Gallery Department Dr Asma Ibrahim and other specialists are members of the team.

Sources in the department of archaeology told *Dawn* on Friday that the team had been busy conducting research at the site over the past two weeks and it was close to winding up its second phase of work.

Speaking about the project, Dr Kenoyer explained that in earlier times, British archaeologist Dr Mortimer Wheeler had conducted trenching and excavation of a large pit at this location, but left it in half way labelling it an "embankment" but, according to him, it could be a "fortification wall" surrounding the city.

"We have re-excavated this wall for proper documentation and excavated trenches at three different locations to examine its structure. We hope to create a model of it," Dr Kenoyer stated.

Dr Kenoyer said people visit Mohenjo-Daro to see the Stupa and the Great Bath, but they are unaware that the city was surrounded by fortification walls. "The fortification had main gates where anyone entering the city would pay taxes, which contributed to the city's revenue. We will also search for these fortification gates," he said.

He expressed the hope that there would have been a main gate for the fortification wall.

About his visit to the world heritage site, he said that he had been travelling here as a student back in 1989 and now was working where Dr George F. Dales had done some work in 1965.

The archaeologist revealed that evidence of sewage disposal systems has been found at Harappa, and similar drainage systems likely existed near the Great Bath's western side and around the gates at Mohenjo Daro.

"We got bricks resembling the kutcha bricks of the Harappa period, measuring 10x30x40 centimetres and weighing 14 kilogrammes each. A man can only lift two such bricks. Small bricks were having size of 16x12x24 centimetres which were used in the construction of houses.

"We are searching for these drainage systems and will create models to show visitors. We will prepare models using raw materials so that people visiting Mohenjo Daro don't think this was just ruins, but understand what kind of lifestyle and civilisation existed here," Dr Kenoyer added.

The excavation aims to provide visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the sophisticated urban planning and infrastructure systems that characterised this 5,000-year-old Indus Valley civilisation.

Dr Asma Ibrahim said that their objective was to continue work on the fortification wall. She added that, fortunately, they had discovered a fortification wall with a width of "six meters". "We will also look for its

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CLAD in a blue kurta with a scarf wrapped around his head, Prof Jonathan Mark Kenoyer supervises the excavation work at a site in Mohenjo-Daro. —Photo by Saeed Memon